— SAIL made efforts to increase exports and succeeded in exporting 4,89,000 tonnes of Mild Steel and 25,000 tonnes of Special Steel during 1996-97. SAIL is trying to export a higher tonnage during 1997-98.

The steps taken by RINL to reduce the inventory include efforts to improve sales, emphasis on export keeping in view the domestic market conditions, etc.

Flight from Calicut, Mangalore to Delhi

6272. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to start flights from Calicut and Mangalore to Delhi to cater to the greder demands from the people of Malabar region in Kerala; and

(b) the time by which flights are likely to be operated?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Due to capacity constraints, Indian Airlines has at present no plans to start flights from Calicut and Mangalore to Delhi. Private operators are, however, being encouraged to add more stations to their networks.

Electrification of Delhi-Amritsar Rail Route

6273. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a proposal to fully electrify the Railway line between Delhi and Amritsar;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the major constraints of slow progress in the implementation of the scheme; and

(d) the steps are being taken to ensure its early completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. There was no proposal to electrify Delhi-Amritsar railway line. However, Delhi-Ambala-Ludhiana section which is on Delhi-Amritsar route has already been electrified.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Modernisation and Development of Railway Workshops

6274. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise and develop the Railway workshops that comes under South Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details of those workshops and developmental schemes thereto and the amount earmarked for these schemes;

(c) whether necessary budgetary provisions have been made for the purpose;

(d) if so, the time by which the development and modernisation work is likely to be completed;

(e) whether the modernisation and development of these workshops are likely to be generated any employment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c):

(Rs. in crores)

Workshop		Modernisation/Development Schemes	Anticipated Cost	Outlay 1997-98
Hubli	(i)	Conversion of workshop to BG for POH of carriages.	14.38	0.78
	(ii)	Additional facilities to cater for carriage POH activities.	6.47	0.20
	(iii)	Setting up of wagon manufacturing facilities.	15.00	0.50
Guntupalli	(i)	Wagon workshop-Development facilities for maintenance of high capacity draft gear.	2.25	0.01

(d) These works are likely to be completed during IX. Plan.

(e) No, Sir. The facilities are planned to be manned by redeployment of existing staff.

(f) Does not arise.

Air India's Flights

6275. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) number and names of those countries where Air India's flights operate;

(b) out of those flights, the number of flights being operated from Calcutta;

(c) whether the Government propose to operate or to touch Air India's flights to Calcutta while operating the flights to Europe and other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Air India is presently operating its services to U.A.E., Bahrain, Thailand, U.S.A. Tanazania, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Germany, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Kuwait, U.K., U.S.S.R., Sultanate of Oman, Kenya, Japan, France, Italy, singapore, Israel and Canada.